

The Church ... a *Master* Planned Community
Key Relationships in a Master Planned Community...
What's a Wife to Do? (5:21-24, 33b)
Small Group Study Questions for the week of April 26-May 2

Getting Started

- Which of these TV families best reflects your family: Cleavers, Flintstones, Bradys, Simpsons, or another? Why that family?
- Do you know of a married couple that you feel showed you what a good marriage should be like? What about that relationship impacted you?

Digging Deep

Read through Ephesians 5:21-24, 33b together as a group

1. In verse 21, to whom should we submit and for what reason?
2. Why would living a submitted life to one another be important for the people of the church? (see 5:1, 8, 15-16)
3. Read verses 22 with 33b “22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord... 33b and the wife must respect her husband.” How is verse 22’s call to submission different than verse 21? How does verse 33b add to or change the emphasis of verse 22?
4. What do you feel are some things that make it difficult for wives to submit to or respect their husbands?
5. In Biblical times women were considered more as property and were compelled to obey to their husband. Who is the command to “submit” made to and why should they submit? (Compare with Col 3:18). How is this a different approach to marriage?
6. Compare the relationship of the wife and husband, with the church and Christ. How is Christ the head of the church and how should the church respond to his authority? (Verses 23-24)

A Matter of Prayer

(Mixed groups may want to split by gender for this portion)

7. *Women only:* How do you feel about the standard in verses 23 and 24. If married, how do you implement this in your marriage? Is there anything you could do differently?

Men only: How should a man react if they do not feel like their wife respects them. If married, do you get in the way of your wife’s worship by either compelling her to submit or deferring your headship? Is there anything you could do differently?
8. How well do you think the church submits to Christ as its head? Ideally what would that look like and in what way is the reality different than the ideal?

Next Week: Ephesians 5:25-33